

Amendments to the Claims

The Applicants note that the claims in this application were amended under PCT Article 19 by the International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA), wherein Claims 1-2 were amended as set forth in the English-language translation of the Amendment Under PCT Article 19 enclosed herewith. The Article 19 amended claims which are not being amended herein are indicated by the modifier "(previously presented)".

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) An image processing method which processes 3-dimensional CT data obtained from a 3-dimensional object and being 3-dimensional voxel data, the 3-dimensional object composed of a single block, the image processing method comprising:

a start point setting step of setting a start point of continuity in the 3-dimensional CT data to the single block; and

a continuity detecting step of detecting the 3-dimensional CT data having continuity with the start point set in the start point setting step,

wherein the 3-dimensional CT data are rearranged based on the 3-dimensional CT data having the continuity detected in the continuity detecting step.

2. (previously presented) An image processing method which processes 3-dimensional CT data obtained from a 3-dimensional object and being 3-dimensional voxel data, the 3-dimensional object composed of a plurality of blocks in a predetermined area of the 3-dimensional

object, the image processing method comprising:

a start point setting step of setting, for each of the plurality of blocks, a start point of continuity in the 3-dimensional CT data to the block concerned; and

a continuity detecting step of detecting, for each of the plurality of blocks, the 3-dimensional CT data having continuity with the start point set in the start point setting step,

wherein the 3-dimensional CT data are rearranged based on the 3-dimensional CT data having the continuity detected in the continuity detecting step.

3. (currently amended) An image processing method according to claim 1 [[or 2]] wherein the detection of continuity in the continuity detecting step is performed per surface or per point.

4. (currently amended) An image processing method according to claim 2 [[or 3]] wherein the predetermined area is a jaw joint part, and the plurality of blocks include a mandibular condyle head and a mandibular fossa.

5. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium in which an image processing program embodied therein for causing a computer to execute the image processing method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 is recorded.

6. (new) An image processing method according to claim 2 wherein the detection of continuity in the continuity detecting step is performed per surface or per point.

7. (new) An image processing method according to claim 3 wherein the predetermined area is a jaw joint part, and the plurality of blocks include a mandibular condyle head and a mandibular fossa.

8. (new) A computer-readable recording medium in which an image processing program embodied therein for causing a computer to execute the image processing method according to claim 2 is recorded.

9. (new) A computer-readable recording medium in which an image processing program embodied therein for causing a computer to execute the image processing method according to claim 3 is recorded.

10. (new) A computer-readable recording medium in which an image processing program embodied therein for causing a computer to execute the image processing method according to claim 4 is recorded.